

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

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Editor
Armed Forces Journal International
Suite 603
1414 22nd Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

Dear Sir:

In your January edition, you carried an extensive article on American intelligence. The author chose to use a pseudonym. Perhaps he did this to permit himself to criticize others without subjecting himself to counter-criticism; perhaps he did this simply not to disclose the fact that he lacked credentials (though that was apparent from the text).

For instance, he alleges that I engaged a retired general officer to review the entire codeword system of American intelligence; that I gave him four days to do this; and that it took four months. The only correct fact is the number "four." I asked the officer to do this in four weeks; he did it in four weeks.

The author further alleges that this officer reported to me that neither he nor I had the appropriate clearances to read all of his report. This is utterly untrue. It also discloses how little the author understands of the intelligence process. A Presidential Executive Order in effect stipulates that no codewords can be established within the Intelligence Community without the authorization of the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI). The DCI, therefore, by definition has access to all codewords in intelligence and can further authorize their disclosure as he deems appropriate.

I can't think of an article on intelligence that was less well informed, more logically inconsistent, or larded more heavily with meaningless generalities. I would suggest that in the future you do a better job of checking the credentials of your contributors who do not have the guts to stand up to the criticism the quality of their work deserves.

Yours sincerely,


STANSFIELD TURNER

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